

## **AUTHOR IS IN TROUBLE FOR NAMING NAMES**

February 23, 2003 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) –

Recently I received the following communication from an independent Baptist preacher and author:

“Bro. Cloud, Two Fundamentalist papers refuse to carry an ad for my book on the -----.

“I talked at length on the phone with the editor of the one out of -----. His reason was that I called Jack Hyles a heretic. I did call his teaching on the eternal humanity of Christ heresy and pointed out that any one who continues to teach heresy after having been instructed in the errors of his ways is a heretic. He admitted to hearing Jack Hyles in person preaching on the eternal humanity of Christ and that Christ has been human from eternity past, etc, etc. The editor of that paper said that he disagreed with that teaching and that in fact my book was correct. His problem was that I said something bad about one of the great icons of Fundamentalism and one of his heroes. According to him, it is OK to talk about John MacArthur but not someone in OUR camp. He did not agree with me that heresy must be pointed out WHEREVER it is found. He refuses to advertise the book.

“The paper out of ----- took nine months to review the book and said in an e-mail that a red flag came up and there were ‘some questions’ about the book. (The editor admitted that he did not read the entire book!) My response back was brief and to the point. I asked two questions of the editor: (1) Is Jack Hyles the issue? (2) Does the paper disagree with the exposition of the doctrine of the blood in my book?

“As far as I am concerned, a man is never the issue -- truth is. The focus is always our Lord and His WORD, PERIOD. A personality is never to be the issue or the focus. That is cult-like. If this paper makes Hyles the issue, so be it; their true colors shine forth. If they disagree on the doctrine of the blood, then there are more problems in Fundamentalism than saying bad things about Jack Hyles. I hope it doesn't take nine months for them to respond.

“I have been told that the book would sell much more quickly if I did not include the two case studies at the end on Hyles and MacArthur. Wouldn't want to be controversial!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And controversy is never my goal, only the truth.

“Anyhow, the main issue I wanted to deal with in the book is -----? ... Those who have read the book for its intended purpose and who are not personality oriented have said

they learned something and were blessed. That is my goal -- that the book be a blessing and draw people closer to their Lord and get better acquainted with Him.

Hope you soon get the opportunity to read it and provide comment on it.

Look forward to hearing from you.

In His Service,  
----- Col. 4:5

### **BROTHER CLOUD'S REPLY**

Thanks for the follow up, Brother ----- . I am not surprised at the response you have received from the powers that be among fundamental Baptists. I was led to Christ by an old line Pentecostal the summer of 1973 and I have never seen him since. (I was on one of my many traveling journeys when I met him, and the day after I was saved he continued on with his own journey and I headed home to get things right with my dad and to settle down and get a start in my new life.) Thus as a new Christian I didn't have the foggiest idea of where I should go to church. I only knew that I could find the truth by continuing in the Word of God (Jn. 8:31-32 was one of the passages that the Pentecostal taught me before we parted to go our different ways) and I could know the truth by comparing everything to the Bible. I eventually found a little independent Baptist church that was being started in Bartow, Florida, by some folk who had come out of the SBC, having become disgusted with the compromise. (It has since disbanded.) I rejoiced to find some believers that I felt were trying to take the Bible seriously, who not only believed the truth but also were willing to stand for the truth and against error.

From there I went to Tennessee Temple, not knowing anything else at the time. I went with the mindset to "prove all things" and not to blindly accept anything or unquestioningly follow any man. I was not there very long before I became deeply concerned about some things that I observed, chiefly (1) the exaltation of man beyond what we see in the N.T., (2) the pragmatism that reigned supreme (whatever gets a crowd is good, even if it turns the church into a circus; independent Baptists were pragmatists long before the church growth gurus came along), and (3) the shallow soul winning methodology and numbers madness.

I wanted to leave the school after the first year, but the Lord wouldn't let me; so I stayed and finished. I got some good Bible teaching from Dr. Bruce Lackey and a couple of the other teachers, and I got my wonderful wife there; but I also got an education in some of the things that are seriously wrong with independent Baptists. Hyles preached my graduation service at Temple in 1977, and I have been unable to respect him from the first time I heard him. Even as a very young Christian, I felt that he was preaching himself more than he was preaching the Word of God.

Anyway, I said all of that to say that I am thankful for those few men among fundamental Baptists who do not allow themselves to be dragged down to the great compromise of allowing pragmatism and the fear of man to control their ministries. Keep on naming those names. In fact, for my part, you can name a lot more while you are at it!

From time to time people ask me how to establish a publishing ministry, and I always tell them that I don't know. I didn't do it. I didn't make plans about how to have a big publishing ministry (not that I am very big!) and then pursue it. I have never tried to get reviews by the big names, etc. I am just a puny man who has tried to be faithful in preaching what the Lord has laid on my heart, and He has opened doors that men have been unable to shut (though they certainly have tried!).

May the Lord greatly bless and encourage and use you in these needy days.

In Christ,  
Brother Cloud

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